

Labour Market News

CENTRAL ALBERTA

Alberta Employment and Immigration

JOB SEEKERS

Careers for life

Working in emergency medical services and health and safety

Emergency medical responders (EMR), emergency medical technicians (EMT-A) and paramedics (EMT-P) are the front line in the health care system. They are often the first health care workers to reach a patient. In a job that can be slow for hours waiting for the alarm to sound, emergency response workers can be suddenly called to a crash scene or industrial accident saving people's lives with timely care. Emergency response staff have to be cool in a hot situation and able to handle stress well. It's not a job for everyone. But some love it.

An excellent entry point into this field is working in a safety watch position. This job is exactly what it sounds like. Safety watch workers keep an eye on industrial operations to ensure all safety procedures are being followed. The most common place to find safety watch workers is on large industrial sites when they are being maintained and refurbished. Often working for specialized safety service companies, safety watch staff are trained to monitor a variety of procedures to make sure no one needs the service of EMR staff waiting on stand-by.

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EMPLOYERS

Literacy in the workplace

Helping staff

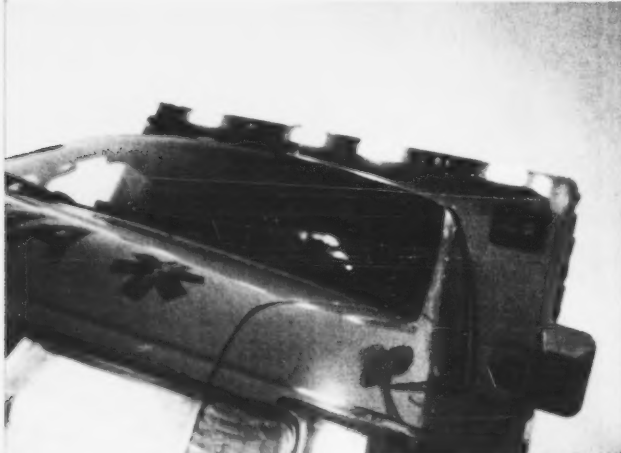
The ability to read and write is one that many of us take for granted. Those who have troubles with literacy often struggle in private, without letting anyone—not even their employers—know.

"At least 40 per cent of the Canadian population has below a thriving level of literacy," says Janet Lane, executive director of Literacy Alberta. "Almost without exception, these people are employed."

For employers, that means a good number of their staff likely has some literacy issues. But, unlike their skills and accomplishments, it's usually not something they highlight on their resumé. Employers don't exactly view low literacy as a strength, after all, and someone with such a problem may not be as productive as their coworkers and have trouble with seemingly simple tasks. However, employers can't afford to lose staff, especially those who are qualified in every other area.

It's more beneficial to employers to help employees who may be struggling—but yet another challenge is trying to identify who needs help. "There is such a stigma attached to (low literacy)," says Lane. "People are reluctant to let others know."

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NEXT ISSUE...

**The beauty industry
Massage therapy**

Apply, please!

Demand for safety watch workers and emergency medical response staff is growing fast.

As Alberta's industrial base expands, each new facility needs more safety watch workers, and more emergency response crews on stand-by to handle accidents ranging from a twisted ankle to a heart attack. Tightening safety regulations are also boosting the need for emergency staff.

"The demand is a bit of both," explains Carrie Schweitzer, a recruiter with HSE Integrated. "Regulations are demanding more emergency response capabilities and the industry as a whole is often ahead of the regulations."

For emergency medical response staff like paramedics and EMT's, demand in rural and urban municipalities is driven by population growth and the pending wave of retirements

Career growth

Safety watch workers are the entry-level position in this field, and generally employers provide all the essential training to get them working within two weeks including certification for industry-standard safety courses like WHIMIS and H2S Alive.

Graduating to an EMR position requires a commitment to learning some basic medical skills in courses that last about two weeks and may cost about \$1,000 (St. Johns Ambulance is just one of many local courses providers, that can be found under First Aid training in the Yellow Pages). After training, work can start at around \$175 per day, though work can be seasonal or come and go with industrial projects.

The next level is an EMT, and that requires about a year's worth of training at SAIT or NAIT, plus a practicum (visit the Paramedic Association of Canada's website for information on practicum requirements at www.paramedic.ca). To become a paramedic the commitment is much greater.

Paramedics are roving medical experts, able to handle advanced equipment in complex emergencies. It takes at least two years of academic training, plus a lengthy practicum. Often paramedics are the most experienced medical staff at an industrial site and take on added supervisory roles.

Private vs. public, or both

The traditional employer of emergency medical response staff has been municipalities and counties. In the City of Red Deer the municipality employs its emergency staff directly (see July 2007 issue for a look at Red Deer's career opportunities as a firemedic, or visit the City's website at

www.city.red-deer.ab.ca). In rural areas, private contractors such as Guardian Ambulances Ltd. often provide emergency service for a county or municipality.

Working for a municipality or government contractor offers steady employment. And since public emergency medical services provide care for vast areas, and large populations, workers in the public sector tend to be busier than in the private sector. Major urban centres also tend to hire more experienced crews, and post far fewer entry-level opportunities.

In the private sector, pay tends to be high and the work more seasonal. There are also far more opportunities for entry-level positions such as EMR workers. Safety watch positions are nearly exclusive to the private sector.

Often emergency workers will gain work experience and improve their education in the private sector, and then move to a municipal emergency service. But they may not stay there. Private sector wages for paramedics are rising quickly in the private sector, causing some serious retention problems for cities like Edmonton and Calgary which are losing staff to the oil and gas industry and oilfield service companies.

In Central Alberta, the retention problem isn't as severe, and paramedics can work for both private and public employers at the same time since many companies only need a paramedic for a very short time and they pay by the day.

Seasonality

Safety watch workers and entry-level EMR staff work in a very seasonal business. In summer, the demand is for safety watch as industrial plants complete their annual maintenance. In winter, EMR staff are in demand to provide essential medical support for oil and gas activity in rural and remote areas. To stay employed through the year workers can spend winters in the field as EMR staff and summers working safety watch. Many EMRs work for several companies to help fill any gaps in their schedule, or take time off from a job that pays well when the work is available.

Wherever the work is, emergency medical response staff can expect good pay, room to advance and the occasional day where the excitement is nearly overwhelming.

NEWS FLASH....

In May, the provincial government announced the separate emergency medical services provided by municipalities will be combined into a single province-wide system by April 2009.

SAFETY WATCH WORKER



HOURS

Summer is the busy season for safety watch workers, and the hours can be highly variable as one project is finished, and another begins. Workers may have to work from camps or motels.

WAGES

Wages vary widely depending on education, experience, and the job, but start at about \$18/hour. While working far from home, safety watch workers are provided with accommodation or are compensated.

WHERE TO FIND WORK

The major source of employment for safety watch workers is with safety service companies like HSE Integrated (www.hseintegrated.com) or United Safety (www.unitedsafety.ca). They advertise, but visiting their websites is a more reliable job search method. Potential employers can be found under 'safety consultants,' or 'oilfield services' in the Yellow Pages.

The three steps of emergency

Careers in emergency response

JOB SEEKERS
Careers
TO CONSIDER

There are three levels of emergency medical service providers in Alberta—emergency medical responders (EMRs), emergency medical technicians (EMT-As) and emergency medical paramedics (EMT-Ps). EMRs are the entry-level position and require very moderate training. In contrast, paramedics are highly skilled medical professionals that spend years in school and on practicum.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR)

Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) provide basic medical care to injured people, lift stretchers and assist EMTs, paramedics and hospital staff. They are often employed by rural emergency medical services, and safety service or oilfield service companies where they are on stand-by and prepared to help injured workers on well sites, in forestry camps or at industrial plants. EMR positions are an entry-level position for emergency medical personnel. Stress, shifts and working weekends and evenings are common in this line of work, particularly when working for a municipality. For EMR's working with industry, the challenges are a little different. Most work is in remote locations and accidents are much rarer. Industrial EMR's often work two to three week schedules when they are on-call 24 hours a day. Pay is variable, but industry rates may start at \$175/day.

Training: In Alberta, EMR programs are offered by a number of public colleges, private schools and other organizations. A current list of approved programs is posted on the Alberta College of Paramedics website (www.collegeofparamedics.org). Applicants must be at least 18 and have obtained a Standard First Aid certificate and CPR certification at the Basic Rescuer Level (C) within the previous year.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT-A)

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-As) are trained to do everything an EMR can do, and more. This is a middle level position and like EMR positions, employment is concentrated in rural areas and with industry. With experience however, EMT's can find work in larger urban centres. Given that it takes about a year to gain the necessary education and minimum experience to work as an EMT, this job offers excellent compensation. EMT's can earn \$200 a day to start. But like nearly any career path, experience helps. Even with the current high demand for EMT's, employers are looking for work experience and a background in safety watch or as an EMR is useful. Working for a municipality, EMTs enjoy stable work throughout the year, but earn less. In industry the pay is higher, but there are seasonal dry periods when work can be hard to find.

Training: Both NAIT (www.nait.ca) and SAIT (www.sait.ca) offer one-year EMT programs. The University of Alberta's Augustana Campus in Camrose also offers an EMT course (www.augustana.ab.ca). A current list of approved programs is posted on the Alberta College of Paramedics website.



PARAMEDIC (EMT-P)

Paramedics (EMT-Ps) are experts at providing pre-hospital care to patients. Until very recently, much of the care and help paramedics can provide on the scene of an accident was only available at the hospital. The skills of paramedics are also very much in demand. Major urban centres in Alberta are short of paramedics and looking for more, while industry is willing to pay about \$700/day to attract paramedics to work near major industrial projects. In Central Alberta, there probably isn't enough industrial work to employ paramedics permanently, but paramedics will combine working for a municipality with the occasional temporary industrial project. Paramedics are licensed by the Alberta College of Paramedics (www.collegeofparamedics.org). Their website offers the latest news about the field and has a job board with positions for EMR, EMT-As and EMT-Ps.

Training: NAIT in Edmonton (www.nait.ca) offers a two year paramedic program as does SAIT in Calgary (www.sait.ca). A current list of approved programs is posted on the Alberta College of Paramedics website.



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A ...

Emergency Medical Technician

How did you start in this career?

Years ago I was in car accident. During the time off I decided that what I really wanted to do was to go back and do my EMR and EMT. I had always been interested in medicine.

Who would be suited for this career?

You have to be professional. There are lot of meetings with the rig crews—you're involved in a lot of operations and planning. You have to be able to get along with people but not be too friendly. You have to be independent too, and keep track of the crew—who's away, who's on, and who has an allergy. On most jobs you go out on your own. So you're always by yourself and you really need to have attention to detail. You have to make good plans for getting your patients out of where you work.

Does your job affect your lifestyle?

It's good. You make a lot more money than in town, and you have options. I work for several companies and can take time off pretty much when I like. Most jobs last two to three weeks and there's lots of travel. When you're working in camp it's not so much fun, but it's OK ... good food.

What are some of the rewards of your job?

I work all over Alberta, in Saskatchewan and BC, and see really cool operations and the big things that are happening in the industry.

What are some of the challenges of your job?

It's difficult when you have a patient and you're on your own. We work a long way from a hospital, and sometimes the helicopter can't make it to the site. So that's a difficulty. That's probably the most difficult thing, and then just being by yourself and being isolated a lot of the time can be hard.



CAREER PROFILE

Jennifer Crawley

Crawley began her career in emergency medical response with a change of direction. At university she decided to switch to a field she had always been interested in. After a short course to gain her EMR certification, Crawley went north to Athabasca for her first job. It was a success, and she went on to spend a year in school and on practicum to become an EMT.

Today she works for several companies. One of her employers, Cougar Emergency Response in Red Deer, has a contract locally and Crawley makes it home every day. But mostly, Crawley works two to three weeks straight in remote locations on a day rate. "The pay is great," says Crawley. "It gives me options."

What are your career goals?

I see myself staying in the industrial work. I like this business. I don't expect to become a paramedic. There is a lot of stress as a paramedic.

What advice would you give to someone looking at this career?

Be very strong charactered. You have to be safety-oriented and stay out of trouble. Camps can be a bit of a free-for-all, and you have to be pretty level-headed as a woman in the oilpatch. Even the guys, they have to be professional and get along with people.

Would you choose this career again?

Absolutely, I really enjoy it. The pay is great and I love to be on the road. And with this job I have flexibility to set my own schedule.

Working in industrial emergency medical response

Wages

Pay for many industrial EMR, EMT and paramedic positions is usually by the day, which means employees can be called at any time to handle an emergency while they are on site. An EMR can start out at \$175 per day, and EMTs can earn \$200 per day to start. For paramedics the rate can be \$700 per day. While pay is high, the work isn't always there. EMR and EMT's face some seasonal slow downs (particularly in spring). Employees are also paid food and lodging allowances when necessary.

Education

Entering this field of work requires at least an EMR course. They are provided by several local providers (see First Aid training in the Yellow Pages) and may take a few weeks and cost about \$1,000. To become an EMT requires about a year of training at a college like NAIT or SAIT, and there is a practicum. To become a paramedic is quite demanding with at least two years of intensive schooling and a practicum.

Hiring Tips

The main employers of EMRs and EMTs are oilfield services and safety service companies and their websites are a good place to start a job search. Paramedics tended to be employed by municipalities, but with Alberta's wealth of major industrial projects, the private sector is attracting more and more paramedics. The Alberta College of Paramedics has a job board on its website advertising positions at all three levels of emergency service positions at www.collegeofparamedics.org.

Coping with burnout ...

Dealing with stress in the workplace

TIPS FOR EMPLOYEES

**work it
out**

Stress: it's a feeling many of us know all too well. It happens when the demands on us conflict with our ability to fulfill those demands, and where is it most likely to occur? You got it—in the workplace. When those demands keep piling up and create an even bigger gap between our ability (or maybe even our desire) to fulfill them, you get an even bigger problem. It's called burnout, otherwise known as the point of no return.

This is when we shift into avoidance mode, doing everything but work. Checking e-mail every few minutes, catching up on the fascinating world of celebrity gossip—basically whatever we can do to keep our minds off what we should be doing. Then when crunch time rolls around, we go into crisis mode, a vicious cycle that does nothing for our careers or our sanity.

The key, according to research from Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, is spending less time on unimportant busy-work and thus leading to crises, and more time doing things that are



important, but not urgent—for instance, planning and preparing. If you can plan out a project and tackle it step-by-step, leaving room for the inevitable interruptions and day-to-day job tasks, you'll be much more at ease.

A few ways to avoid the burnout trap ...

- * **Exercise.** It might be the last thing you feel like doing after a long day at work, but there's a reason why exercise is the number one way to prevent feelings of burnout. Exercise stimulates chemicals in the brain which make you feel relaxed, reducing feelings of depression and anxiety. It combats disease, helps you sleep better and makes you feel good about yourself. Even a little bit of exercise is better than nothing, so get moving!
- * **Talk to your supervisor** about creating a schedule that works for both of you. If you find that you're zoning out at work and having a hard time balancing other obligations, you are not being productive in the areas you need to be. Your employer might be open to discussing flex time, so you're more motivated to work when you're at work while leaving time for family and other things that are important to you. Or perhaps you could put in more hours on a daily basis and work a four-day schedule. Figure out what would make you feel more in control of your life's obligations, and there just might be a way to make it happen.
- * **Don't take on more than you can handle.** At times we all have more on our plate than we know what to do with. But if you can, talk to your supervisor about delegating tasks or rearranging deadlines so your workload is more manageable. You're only human, and everyone deserves a break every now and then.
- * **Say what you feel.** Office politics stressing you out? It's natural to have conflict with coworkers from time to time, but talking to person B about person A isn't going to resolve your problem with person A. Speak to the person directly to see if you can smooth out your issues. Your workplace may have some type of conflict resolution plan in place. Letting an issue grow over time only adds to stress—it's better to have closure and eliminate it quickly.
- * **Reach out for help.** Many companies offer employees access to counselors, and if they don't, they may cover the costs involved in seeing one. Sometimes it takes talking to a trained professional to better understand why you're feeling stressed and discover what will make you happier. Services are strictly confidential, and sometimes, all we need is an ear to listen.
- * **Make your day a little brighter.** Whether it's putting up a few pictures of loved ones in your office, escaping for a quick coffee break with a friend or even something as subtle as using a favourite pen, it's the little things that can make a difference in your day. As long as they don't interfere with your ability to do your job, there's no harm in these small indulgences.

JobBank



10 TOP JOBS

Jobs posted January 1 to 31, 2008, Red Deer Region

Red Deer Region includes Carstairs, Didsbury, Olds, Innisfail, Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Stettler, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Lacombe, Rocky Mountain House, Caroline and Rimbey as well as rural areas and smaller towns around those.

OCCUPATION TITLE AND NOC CODE	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	AVERAGE WAGE
Total job ads in January	1588	\$15.26
Retail Salespersons & Sales Clerks	76	\$11.98
Labourers in Food, Beverage & Tobacco Processing	59	\$12.10
Carpenters	47	\$24.25
Light Duty Cleaners	45	\$11.43
Construction Trades Helpers & Labourers	44	\$14.05
Heavy-Duty Equipment Mechanics	43	\$22.05
Other Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing & Utilities	42	\$13.60
Welders & Related Machine Operators	39	N/A
Community & Social Service Workers	38	\$17.97
Food Counter Attendants, Kitchen Helpers & Related Occupations	37	\$12.14

Source: Service Canada, Canada-Alberta Job Order Bank Services

N/A (Not available) means five or fewer companies posted wages for this occupation.

FEATURED JOB

Carpenters (NOC 7271)

Carpenters construct, erect and repair buildings and other structures made of wood, wood substitutes, steel and other materials. They are found on nearly all construction sites whether the project is residential, commercial or industrial. On non-residential projects carpenters tend to specialize in a single part of the construction process such as scaffolding. Employment for carpenters peaks in the summer season, but the industry is far less seasonal than it once was. Carpenters may also work on renovations and maintenance.

In April, the Job Bank posted jobs for carpenters in a variety of locations—21 in Red Deer, 18 in Innisfail, two in Camrose, two in Blackfalds and two in Edberg.

The median hourly wage for a carpenter after three years is \$21.63/hr, according to the 2007 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey. Red Deer College offers courses in carpentry.

To find out more about the job description for carpenters, and what NOC codes mean, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo.

How to use the JobBank

JOB SEEKERS

Internet job boards like the Job Bank (www.jobbank.gc.ca) are powerful tools. With a few clicks, a job hunter can search any region of Canada for a particular job category, and even search for employers who've posted ads in the past. Job Bank also has advice on writing a resumé, tips for the job search, advice for finding unadvertised positions, information on self-employment, and notes on finding work in non-profit organizations. With computers and the Internet, job hunters can even automate parts of their job hunt.

With **Job Alert**, any job that matches one of three possible profiles will be automatically emailed to users.

Job Match allows a user to create profiles that will be automatically shown to employers searching for new workers (see page 9 for other job boards and more resources for employees)

Meet employers in person: Connections

Once a week Red Deer's Labour Market Information Centre hosts Connections where a single employer will be available to sit down and explain their labour needs. It's an opportunity for job seekers to speak directly with the people who can best explain a job and a career. Find out about upcoming Connections at employment.alberta.ca/central where there are links to two-page summaries of employers' presentations. This web page also has useful information on upcoming job fairs and events, links to previous editions of the Labour Market News, and links to Finding Work In ..., a monthly publication giving practical advice about finding work in different industries.

EMPLOYERS

For employers, the Job Bank offers a simple and free way of posting job ads right across the country while the site's **Job Match** function allows employers to immediately search a database of resumé. The site also has hundreds of well organized links and articles that explain every stage in the process from defining a job to exit interviews.

Number of career employment ads by industry

Manufacturing NAICS 31-33	768
Accommodation and food NAICS 72	431
Retail NAICS 44	288
Administration NAICS 56	284
Construction NAICS 23	282
Mining, oil and gas NAICS 21	114
Other services NAICS 81	85
Scientific and technical NAICS 54	83
Logistics NAICS 48-49	71
Health NAICS 62	63

EMPLOYERS

Literacy in the workplace

Continued from page 1

There isn't really any way to know someone is having literacy troubles until there's some sort of a crisis, Lane explains. Another way to know for sure is to do an assessment. There are a few signs that may point to low literacy and they can help determine if an assessment needs to be done.

Signs to watch out for:

Absenteeism: Employees with low literacy might call in sick a lot, in an attempt to avoid tasks they have trouble with.

Family issues: Often, family members don't know their loved one has literacy issues and it can cause tension.

Low productivity: They don't do their work according to instructions or they just don't do it at all.

Avoidance: Sometimes employees with low literacy will quit before they are able to get promoted, avoiding further responsibility.

Problems with math/technology: They may have a hard time doing other tasks or upgrading their technological skills, because they can't read instructions.

Of course, these signs could also point to other issues, but

if many of them are present, it might be a good idea to consider an assessment. One that Lane suggests is the Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES). Administered by Bow Valley College, this test measures three essential skills for productive employment: reading text, document use and numeracy. It looks at where an employee needs to have their skills improved, so employers are better able to find a strategy that works for both them and the employee.

Approaching an employee and asking them to take such an assessment can be a bit tricky, but it can be done in a sensitive way, Lane says. If employers adopt the attitude that this

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“An engineer can spend their entire work day on a computer reading, and go home to a house where English isn't spoken. They may never get the chance to practice.”

A cooperative and accepting workplace can help employers identify literacy issues, and then let employees improve without feeling stigmatized.



EMPLOYERS

Literacy in the workplace

Continued from page 7

problem has now turned into an opportunity, they may be able to convince their employees as well—and let them know they'll be supported, not shunned. "They need to look at it as a way to be more productive and capable of doing their job," Lane says.

Next comes the plan of action, that may involve the entire organization so one employee doesn't feel they're being singled out. Workshops on developing essential skills could be offered at the workplace, or even workshops on safety, with literacy training incorporated into it.

"(Employees with low literacy) are probably not getting it when someone says, 'Read the manual,'" says Lane, explaining why literacy training and safety should go hand-in-hand.

Teaching English in a classroom setting is another option

but very few companies have the resources to provide in-house English (Olymel is one). But employers might choose to let an employee off early so they can attend training sessions.

Work Foundations is one option—offered through Alberta Learning Information Service, it teaches basic skills on both a part-time and full-time basis. It includes lessons in basic literacy and numeracy, adult basic education, and life skills/personal management.

However, classroom settings may not be for everyone. "A large classroom can be intimidating for someone who hasn't experienced success in school," says Lane. If that is the case, she suggests calling the local literacy association and making use of a volunteer tutor.

"Employers frequently call us for help with staff and literacy," says Lois Prostebby, adult literacy coordinator for the Red Deer Public Library Adult Literacy Program. "And if we can help, we will."

The library adult literacy program works by matching volunteer tutors with students in weekly or twice weekly two-hour sessions. With about 70 tutors, the program's resources are limited. "We always have more students than tutors." But even if pressed, Prostebby won't place students with inappropriate tutors. "There's no point in a poor match. It just means we have to re-match them later," says Prostebby, who makes sure the needs of the student are aligned with the skills of the tutor.

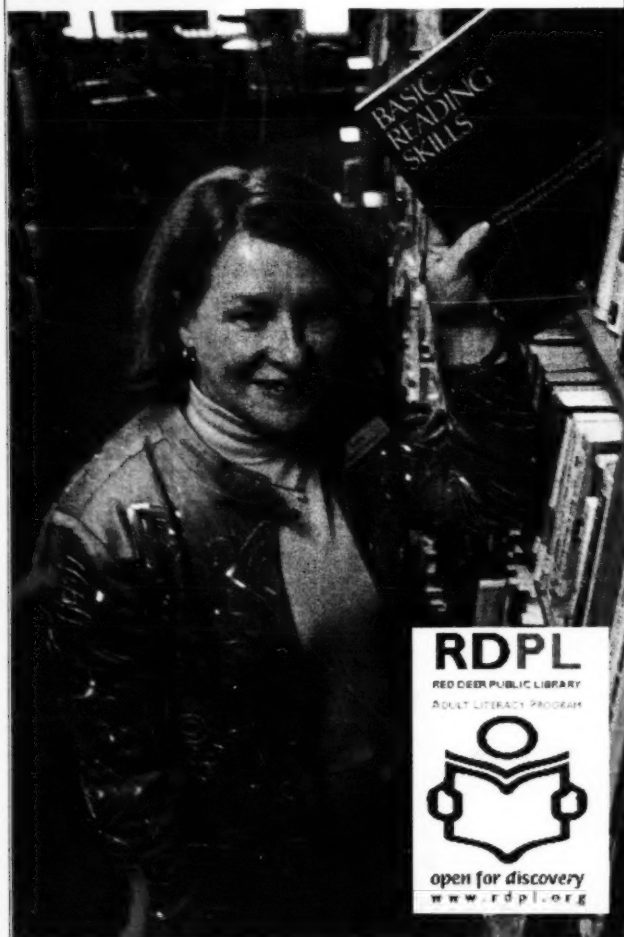
"Some tutors want to work more with pronunciation, and with newcomers to the country," says Prostebby. "In other cases, tutors want to work with Canadian adults who haven't had all the opportunities to build literacy skills. We had one student who wanted to be in the NHL. When that didn't happen he found he had not picked up all the literacy skills he needed. He's improving very quickly now with the help of one of our tutors."

The changing needs of literacy

Over the last few years Prostebby has seen profound changes in the workforce and its need for literacy training. "A few years ago, 80 per cent of our students were adult Canadians with poor literacy skills. Now it's mostly workers who speak English as a second language." Changing students has forced major changes on teaching priorities.

"Many of the people we're getting in now are highly literate in their own language, highly educated, highly skilled and know English grammar better than most Canadians," says Prostebby. "Usually they've had years of English from a textbook, and it's pronunciation and Canadian idioms that cause problems."

Surprisingly, many students simply don't have an opportunity to practice English even in Central Alberta's unilingual environment. "An engineer can spend their entire



Lois Prostebby pulls out one of hundreds of books available through the Red Deer Library's Adult Literacy program.

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EMPLOYERS

Literacy in the workplace

Continued from page 9

work day on a computer reading, and go home to a house where English isn't spoken," says Prostebby. "They may never get the chance to practice."

For most students born in Canada, the problems are very different and tutors focus on reading, writing and numeracy skills.

Whatever the difficulty faced by an individual student, the library's literacy program offers help tailored to a student's needs. "Sometimes, it's just that one-on-one relation with a tutor that makes a huge difference," says Prostebby. "Students who apply themselves can show some real improvement."

The library's literacy program is not designed specifically for employers. It's a resource for the entire community, supported by volunteers. It is, however, one resource for employers looking to improve critical literacy skills in their workforce.

As an employer, it's up to you to pick a plan that works for both you and your employees. Luckily, there are more than a few options, and no one has to deal with this issue alone.

LINKS TO LITERACY



TOWES assessments and workshops can be found at www.towes.com.



The Literacy Alberta Helpline connects people with tutors and local literary resources. www.literacyalberta.ca/helpline.htm



Information on the Work Foundations program offered by Alberta Employment and Immigration can be found at <http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/3103.html> or by calling the Red Deer office at 403-340-5353.



The Henday Association for Lifelong Learning is a nonprofit organization that provides tutoring to adults in reading, writing and math. www.hendaylearning.com/adultliteracy.htm



Search for more adult literacy and workplace literacy programs in your area at www.literacyalberta.ca/Searches/progloc.asp.



The Red Deer Public Library Adult Literacy Program matches adult learners with tutors for one-on-one help. Visit www.rdpl.org/adult-literacy for more information.

EMPLOYER Resources

Both federal and provincial governments have practical programs to help meet the current need for workers in this tight labour market. Here are a few programs that can be of assistance to business.

Information sources

The Labour Market Information page on the Alberta Employment and Immigration (E&I) website offers links to labour force statistics, forecasts, and wage and salary information. (employment.alberta.ca/lmi)

- The Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) website (www.centralalberta.ab.ca) has hundreds of links to information sources, and programs, including:
 - Support for Training Workers
 - Wage Subsidy Programs
 - Recruiting Employees
 - Employment Services in Central Alberta
 - Foreign Worker Employer Guide

Seminars and networking

Employer Connections are held every Wednesday at the Labour Market Information Centre, 2nd Floor, First Red Deer Place, 4911-51 St. (across from the Provincial Building).

The meetings are an opportunity to meet job seekers, employment agencies and career counsellors.

Each week a single employer is showcased and presents their perspective.

To participate free of charge call (403) 340-4347 and ask for a Business and Industry Liaison.

Labour solutions

- Red Deer Aboriginal Employment Services. Ph. (403) 358-7734
- Career Assistance Network teams unemployed workers with employers. Ph. (403) 341-7811
- Employment Placement Support Services supports adults over 25, and persons with disabilities age 18 and over. Ph. (403) 343-6249
- Employment Access offers employment programs for clients with disabilities. Ph. (403) 341-2363
- DRES provides support and assistance to employers hiring people with disabilities. Contact the Canada-Alberta Service Centre in Red Deer. Ph. (403) 340-5353

Personalized help when needed

There are dozens of programs available to employers. E&I employees will visit the workplace and provide a summary of options and opportunities.

For example, they can direct managers to initiatives that will help their business.

For more information call (403) 340-4347 and ask for a Business and Industry Liaison.

Sign up free: We're live and online

This publication, In the News, (an electronic digest about regional business expansions, relocations and closures) and Finding Work In, which profiles different career opportunities, are available online at employment.alberta.ca/central.

A free subscription service will notify you by e-mail when the latest edition of each product comes out. On the same web page there are Labour Market News products for Stettler, Wetaskiwin, Vermillion and Wainwright.

JOB SEEKER Resources

There are many resources in the central region that can be helpful to job seekers and workers alike.

Where to find us

This publication, In the News, (an electronic digest about regional business expansions, relocations and closures) and Finding Work In, which profiles different career opportunities, are available online at employment.alberta.ca/central.

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Job search and career websites

- www.jobbank.gc.ca (Job listings, links and other services)
- www.alis.gov.ab.ca (Alberta Learning Information Service)
- www.workopolis.ca (Job listings)
- www.monster.ca (Job listings)
- www.nextsteps.org (Job resources for youth)
- www.albertajobs.com (Job listings)
- www.hgcareers.com (Job listings)
- www.healthjobs.ab.ca (Health care job listings)

Job search and career information by phone

Alberta Career Information Hotline:

1-800-661-3753

Fax: (780) 422-0372 TDD: (780) 422-5283

Resumé review service

The Government of Alberta e-Resumé Review Service is a great way to have a resumé reviewed and improved, before sending it to employers.

To access the service, log on to www.alis.gov.ab.ca/hotline/resume and follow the instructions to send your resumé for review. The service is free to residents of Alberta and those seeking work in Alberta.

Resources for labour market information

These websites offer a wealth of labour market information on Alberta and specific communities.

- employment.alberta.ca/Imi (Alberta Employment and Immigration)
- www.alis.gov.ab.ca (Alberta Learning Information Service)
- www.albertafirst.com (Business and economic information)
- www.centralalberta.ab.ca (Central Alberta Economic Partnership)

- www.alis.gov.ab.ca/employment/Imi/alberta.asp (Labour market information across Alberta)
- www.labourmarketinformation.ca (Service Canada)

Seminars and networking

Employer Connections are held every Wednesday at the Labour Market Information Centre, 2nd Floor, First Red Deer Place, 4911-51 St. across from the Provincial Building.

The meetings are an opportunity to meet employers face to face.

New to Town?

Past issues of Labour Market News featured information for communities in Central Alberta.

See past bulletins for employment, social services, health care, transportation and other great resources available in your community.

CITY / TOWN	MONTH
Camrose	July 2007
Didsbury	October 2007
Drayton Valley	June 2007
Innisfail	September 2007
Lacombe	August 2007
Olds	February 2007
Ponoka	November 2007
Red Deer	January 2007
Rocky Mountain House	April 2007
Stettler	March 2007
Sylvan Lake	December 2007
Wetaskiwin	May 2007



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION CENTRES

Labour Market Information Centres (LMIC's) provide information to help you make career, learning and work decisions. LMICs have books, magazines, newspapers, software and videos about employment-related topics.

There are LMIC's across Alberta. For a complete list, see: employment.alberta.ca/lmic.

LMIC's in Central Alberta:

Camrose Alberta Service Centre

3rd Flr., Gemini Centre, 6708 - 48 Ave.
Ph. (780) 608-2525

Drayton Valley Sub-Office

2nd Floor Provincial Building
5136 - 51 Ave. Ph. (780) 542-3134

Olds Alberta Service Centre

4905 - 50 Ave. Ph. (403) 507-8060

Red Deer Canada-Alberta Service Centre

2nd Floor First Red Deer Place, 4911 - 51 St.
Ph. (403) 340-5353

Rocky Mountain House Alberta Service Centre, 4919 - 51 St. Ph. (403) 845-8590

Stettler Alberta Service Centre
4835 - 50 St. Ph. (403) 742-7586

Wetaskiwin Alberta Service Centre
1st Floor Macadil Building
5201 - 51 Ave. Ph. (780) 361 1272

Lloydminster LMIC
5016 - 48 St. Ph. (780) 871-6445

Wainwright LMIC
810 - 14 Ave. Ph. (780) 842-7500

Vermilion LMIC
4701 - 52 St. Ph. (780) 853-8164